



By: Adam Ratner

PRL: First off, where did you get the name 'Dead Body Men'?

Will: The funny thing is, we have no idea. There are theories about the name but I say it's open to interpretation. To me it stands for a lot of things, mainly the fact that people are victims of society, even in subcultures to conformism, and victims of war.

PRL: Who's in the band and what do they do?

Will: Neal is on guitar, Phil plays drums, Chris yells, and I play bass.

PRL: When and how did the band come together?

Will: Well, I wasn't an original member. The original goal of Neal's was to have a dream team band. He got Kevin D. from No Reason Why, Jon W. from IGN and his good buddy Philip G. Kevin and Jon only played at Neal's house once and it didn't really work out. So I was recruited. Eventually Philip started to be a no show, so we replaced him with Phil P., and we found Chris R. along the way.

PRL: I got lost after the third name...What kind of music would you say Dead Body Men are?

Will: Names aren't really important, I just felt like rambling. We are straight up political punk, but we may have found a new direction... Our new cd is featuring a new scat-jazz sound. Haha that was supposed to be a secret... don't tell anyone in NC about that.

PRL: It's a Jazz cd?

Will: No, we just have a jazz song on it, but that is a good idea! Actually, never mind, I was listening to Screeching Weasel's 'emo' cd this morning and it was very painful to listen to. I guess bands should just stick to what they know.

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PRL: So what bands, would you say, have influenced Dead Body Men most?

Will: Well, the bands that influence the band are different than my own personal influences. I'd say a lot of old classic punk, Ramones, Clash and whatnot, and some newer stuff like Sloppy Seconds, Pink Lincolns, DK, and Anti-Flag.

PRL: What issues do your lyrics deal with?

Will: This sounds really horrible, but I'm not the best person to ask. Our singer lives 4 hours away and the only time I hear lyrics is when I hear them through some broken down PA. Chris does a really great job with lyrics, though. Our lyrics focus mainly around the evils of society.

PRL: So you guys are from Winston Salem, NC, right? How's the punk scene over there? Is there one or do you have to drive hours to get to a good show?

Will: What a great question! Yes, we are from Winston-Salem. I could write a long paper on the nuances, or now the lack there of, the punk scene here. Basically, a few kids messed it up for everybody. It was nothing extreme, just some band taunting and other assorted events that drove punk out of Winston. This town is all metal shows now, which I'm slowly despising because all these new metal kids act like they are rock stars. We found a safe haven in a redneck bar about 30 minutes away, but now kids wont go there... so we're back to booking shows in Winston and not playing as much as we'd like.

PRL: Well of the show's you've played what was the best and most fun in your opinion?

Will: A couple of them really stand out for me. All of them were at this redneck bar, Friskiz, and all of them were my doing. The first was what I called "The Rebirth of the Scene show" which was our first show at the club. It was beautiful because it was completely different than any other show, it had punk, metal, industrial, rockabilly, and emo bands all play together, and the kids loved it. The second was the Punk vs. Metal show which was just fun in general. And last was The Benefit for Amos Cottage, which had a similar mix to Rebirth, and we made over \$600 for charity.



< This is Will.

That guy's ugly!

PRL: Are you planning on playing any shows soon? Or doing a tour outside of your crap-of-a scene?

Will: We have a real show coming up. Our friend in the Freakin' Zombies booked us a cool as hell punk show at a bigger venue, the same club that has only had bands like Zao and Stretch Armstrong play at it so far, so I'm really excited about that. Right now we are just trying to subtly expand our touring range for this summer, and maybe go to DC and PA, but no definite plans as of yet.

PRL: Random question...if you could play with any band which band would you choose and why?

Will: Hmmm...Probably Minor Threat. Do I really need to say why for this?

PRL: Haha, no, you don't need to. So your working on a new cd now, how is that coming? When will it be out?

Will: It sounds really, really good. I think we chose the right guy to record us this time. Right now we are trying to get some studio time to finish up the mixing. Our release date is May 11th.

PRL: Is it DIY or is this one professionally pressed?

Will: I wish we had a thousand dollar to press CDs, or half that money or however much it costs. This one is DIY like the last one.

PRL: I have your guy's D.O.A. cd and I have to say that I think it's really good. How do you feel about each of the two cd recordings? Do you think the band has gotten better and grown from what your first cd was or is this new cd just a continuation of the first?

Will: Our D.O.A. stuff was the music we had been writing for our first couple of months. We'd been playing shows with that material. The music itself was more basic, but any band would say that when looking back at their first material. The Art of Resistance was less prepared; I think three songs we haven't even played at a show yet. The songs for TAR have more intellectual lyrics, as well as more abrasive lyrics and better written music in general. D.O.A. was recorded in one sweep, we didn't go back to change any tracks. TAR we took a bunch of tries to get the timing down, and Noel's equipment and his expertise make us sound a ton better than D.O.A. We just followed a natural progression, learning our instruments more and learning the tricks of the trade more.

PRL: Are you signed to a label? If not, would you like to be?

Will: No we're not. Right now, I don't want to be on a label, but I think Neal still wants to get on A-F Records. The only thing that I see in a label is larger distribution, and getting on comps (I hate the fact that labels put out comps only for their bands, I think many DIY bands could benefit from being on them). A label also means higher record prices and less contact with fans.

PRL: But if you were offered a deal...to let's say A-F Records... would you turn it down?

Will: Probably not... isn't Snap Her on A-F Records now? A tour with Snap Her and Anti-Flag would be AWESOME. We also might not be losing money on CD sales and playing shows...

PRL: Why are you in the band?

Will: Mainly because I enjoy playing music, and meeting new people. I'm a really quiet, and somewhat an antisocial person, but I love meeting people at shows and going up to people at school to give them flyers... gives me a social outlet as well as a musical outlet. I feel our ideas are very important, too. Oh yeah, and one more thing...I was really sick of all these fat wretch chords bands and all these perversions of punk, and I wanted something I could listen to. HAHA that sounds kind of self-centered, but I rock out to my band's music!

PRL: Well that's better than hating the music your own band plays... Of all of the money that the band makes from selling cds, etc., do you ever see a dime for yourself or is the band's money all put back into putting out more records and paying for gas to play shows?

Will: Well, the only money I've gotten was from our first show; I still have it sitting in an envelope, \$12.25! All of our money recycles, either gas money for going to shows or protests, and for merch. With the recording costs and patches, I'm down \$100. The patches are free and the CDs are going to be cheap, so it looks like I'm not making that back.

PRL: What plans do you have for Dead Body Men? Have you guys set any goals for yourselves?

Will: We're just going to keep on doing what we're doing and have fun doing it.

PRL: Any last words?

Will: Probably, but I can't think of any. Umm... go to our web page: www.ncmusic.com/dbm or www.mp3.com/dbm to check for mp3s, and don't forget that we have our CD for cheap on interpunk.com. Rock on.

